



## National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

AUG 20 2007

Office of the Chairman

Charles A. Licata, Esquire  
Executive Director  
The New Jersey Maritime Pilot  
and Docking Pilot Commission  
One Penn Plaza East, 9th Floor  
Newark, New Jersey 07105

Dear Mr. Licata:

Thank you for your letter of June 12, 2007, addressed to Gary Halbert, General Counsel, regarding the M/V *New Delhi Express* accident. The National Transportation Safety Board appreciates your interest in the accident and in conducting your own evaluation of its causes. Your letter will be entered into the public docket for the *New Delhi Express* accident investigation.

I understand your desire to review the audio portions of the *New Delhi Express*'s voyage data recorder. We have released the voyage data recorder transcript and that information is available to the public. However, the Safety Board is prohibited by law from releasing any audio recordings obtained during the course of an accident investigation. The original voyage data recorder information, including the audio recordings, belongs to the vessel owner. You might request a copy from the owner, Seaspam Ship Management, Ltd., or from U.S. Coast Guard Sector New York.

The New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission has a long history of supporting the bridge resource management safety recommendations that have resulted from previous Safety Board investigations. In the course of the *New Delhi Express* investigation, the Safety Board, through its party system, contacted the pilot associations representing the two pilots and received confirmation that both pilots had received bridge resource management training. The published brief report details the breakdown in bridge resource management that the Board determined as contributing to the accident. The brief has been posted on the Board's website. The Safety Board will also supply you with a CD of the accident docket for your information. Please feel free to contact Captain James H. Scheffer at (202)-314-6459 or [scheffj@ntsb.gov](mailto:scheffj@ntsb.gov) with any questions.

As to your request that the Safety Board revise its press release, I agree that the quote does not accurately reflect what the Board intended to convey. Therefore, the Board has changed the first sentence of the quote ("This accident could have been prevented if previously issued safety recommendations regarding bridge resource management had been implemented") to the following: "This accident could have been prevented if the pilots on the vessel had exercised

proper bridge resource management." The quotation has also been changed in the press release that is posted on the Board's website.

The Safety Board acknowledges its longstanding professional relationship with the State pilot commissions and looks forward to continued cooperation with your commission in promoting marine safety.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Mark V. Rosenker.

Mark V. Rosenker  
Chairman